

Colonel Thomas Cox

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Thomas Cox
Speaker of the house

THOMAS COX.

From photograph of oil painting made when he was twenty-six years old. The painting was imperfectly restored after being injured in the long trip across the plains to California.

Cox was six feet one inch in height, of dark complexion, with black hair and eyes.

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3D SERIES.

COLONEL THOMAS COX.

BY HARVEY REID.

The re-interment at Maquoketa of the remains of Colonel Thomas Cox, one of Iowa's earliest pioneer legislators, and the dedication of a monument to his memory on July 4, 1905, was, in many of its concomitant circumstances, an event remarkably rare in a community as young as ours in Iowa. For it was a case in which the memory of the man had to be resurrected as well as his bones. Fifteen months previously, inquiries had begun which soon developed the fact that not twenty people in Jackson county knew that he died and was buried within its limits, and not one could tell a single incident of his life or career before he became our fellow citizen and highly honored official. He had come to the county in charge of a government surveying party to make the earliest surveys of its southern townships in 1837, had been elected to represent it in the first legislature of the Territory of Iowa, had been re-elected four times, and had been honored by his associates therein by being chosen speaker of one house and president of the other. In April, 1840, he had periled his life in defense of law and good government in the county, by leading a band of citizens who routed a gang of outlaws entrenched in Brown's hotel at Bellevue. So much, county histories told, but nothing more about Col. Cox. Only in the memories of the very oldest settlers was there any record that the old pioneer died while Iowa was yet a territory, on his claim four miles from Maquoketa, and that

he was buried on a spot of his own selection, under a beautiful hickory tree on a hillside near his log cabin home. Representatives of the Jackson County Historical Society sought the spot, guided by one who, long years before, had known the grave to be well marked by a row of cobblestones. The tree was there, its symmetrical head of glossy green a pleasure to the eye, but the mound was obliterated by nearly half a century's cultivation in grain and grass.

N. B. Butterworth, A. H. Wilson and a few other venerable pioneers of the vicinage, and the distinguished Iowa historian, Dr. William Salter, of Burlington, who, as a clergyman, had officiated at the funeral of Col. Cox in November, 1844, told us that his entire family and also all relatives and intimate friends removed to California with the earliest immigration in 1849 and 1850. So, remembrance of him had nearly passed into oblivion, and it became a welcome task to endeavor to rescue his memory and to place upon record something of what Thomas Cox had done to bring civilization, and the blessings of law and order to the "beautiful land"—Iowa.

Nearly a year was consumed in efforts to discover the whereabouts of his descendants in California, with the result of finding an aged son and daughter (Simon Bolivar and Miss Phoebe Cox), and eighteen grandchildren, living in and near Los Angeles. One of the grandsons, Mr. Thomas E. Nichols, and Mr. S. B. Cox have supplied us with meager details of the early life of their ancestor. The Boardman Library at Maquoketa supplied valuable data from the following books: Frank E. Stevens' "History of the Black Hawk War;" "The Edwards Papers," edited by Hon. E. B. Washburne; F. E. Stevens' "Illinois in the War of 1812-14;" "Transactions of the Illinois Historical Society, 1904;" "Territorial Records of Illinois," edited by President E. J. James; "THE ANNALS OF IOWA, 1st, 2d, and 3d series;" "Iowa Historical Record," and Reports of the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers' Association. Mr. Frank E. Stevens of Chicago kindly loaned

from his library the "Record of Services of Illinois Soldiers in the Black Hawk War;" Powers' "Early Settlers of Sangamon County;" and Ninian W. Edwards' "History of Illinois," and also contributed aid in research that was invaluable. From Charles Aldrich, Curator of the Historical Department of Iowa, were procured Journals of the Iowa Territorial Assemblies; he also aided the research in many other ways. Valuable aid also came from Hon. A. F. Dawson, M. C., in procuring books and correspondence from Washington officials; from Dr. R. G. Thwaites, Secretary of the Wisconsin State Historical Society; from Dr. William Salter of Burlington, Prof. B. F. Shambaugh of Iowa City, Rev. Wm. E. Reed, Sturgis, S. D., Col. E. C. Townsend, Shullsburg, Wisconsin, Hon. P. W. Crawford, Dubuque, Adjutant-General W. H. Thrift, Des Moines, and many other friends.

Thus derived from "scraps and fragments, diamond dust of the past," we tell the story of one who was ever in the forefront of civilization, a pioneer of pioneers.

Thomas Cox was born in Kentucky, in 1787. His father, Robert Cox, came as a youth from near Belfast, Ireland, to Virginia, about the close of the revolutionary war. He soon joined in the immigration, which flowed at that period into the "dark and bloody ground" of Kentucky. We are not informed as to what locality in Virginia received the young Irishman, nor just where in Kentucky he made his home, but a tradition in the family is to the effect that after his marriage he "forted" with Daniel Boone. He married in Kentucky, Jane Robinson, the daughter of a Virginian belonging to one of the old families. Thomas was their oldest son. Family records that might have given more genealogical details were in a wagon abandoned on a Nevada desert, in the California emigration of 1849. We know only the year of his birth, and nothing of the details of his youthful days.

About 1809, he accompanied his father and family in a migration to what in that year had been constituted the

Territory of Illinois. They settled at the old French town of Kaskaskia, which had been the seat of government of the adjacent region under the French colonization, beginning about 1690, under the English conquest of 1763, and under the American domination secured by the victory of General George Rogers Clark, in 1778. President Madison had appointed as Governor of the new Territory, Hon. Ninian Edwards, then chief justice of Kentucky, and relations of intimate friendship seem to have existed between him and the Coxes, father and son. He appointed Robert Cox, justice of the peace (an important office in those days), in 1812, and, as early as 1810, made Thomas a deputy sheriff, in which position the young man assisted in taking the federal census of that year for the county of Randolph. At that time Randolph and St. Clair counties constituted the entire territory of Illinois, in which the census found only 12,282 people. Young Cox also collected the taxes for a part of Randolph county, most of them being taken from necessity in furs and peltries.

The white settlements in Illinois Territory when it took on a separate entity, were all confined within the area south of a line drawn roughly east from the mouth of the Illinois river. The jurisdiction of its governor extended, however, to the north through what is now Wisconsin, and a part of Minnesota, quite to the British possessions, and he shared with the federal government the task of protecting the settlers from the hordes of savage tribes that roamed over this vast domain. One of the first duties, therefore, of the new territorial government was to organize an efficient militia. This necessity was aggravated by the machinations of British emissaries, who, in anticipation of the impending war, incited the Indians of northern Ohio and Indiana to hostilities as early as 1811, which were partially quelled by the fortunate issue of the battle of Tippecanoe.

Thomas Cox was one of the first to enroll himself in the militia service, and we find his name as member of one

of the companies assembled for three months' active duty, March 3, 1812, at Camp Russell, now Edwardsville, Illinois. War with England was declared June 18, 1812, and the Illinois Indians becoming openly hostile, the result was the massacre at Fort Dearborn in August. About the middle of October, Governor Edwards moved from Camp Russell with a mounted force, partly militia, and partly "Rangers," as the United States volunteers of the day were called, to form a junction at Peoria Lake with a similar force from Vincennes, Indiana, under General Samuel Hopkins of Kentucky, and chastise the savage perpetrators of the Chicago massacre. Hopkins' detachment, too easily discouraged, turned back when half the journey had been accomplished. Edwards, however, completed the march to the head of Peoria Lake, drove the Indians from their villages, and captured some of their horses; but, being without the expected co-operation, forebore the pursuit and returned without loss. In all situations of danger and contact with the enemy, Edwards' little army was led by what was called in those days, a "spy company," or band of scouts, consisting of Captain Samuel Judy and twenty-one privates. One of those privates was Thomas Cox. Among the others, were the captain and the ensign of the militia company to which Cox belonged, and a young man named John Reynolds, who, in 1830, became governor of Illinois. His service in that little company of scouts gained for Governor Reynolds in after years, the sobriquet of "The Old Ranger," by which he was so well known that, says a historical writer, Dr. J. F. Snyder, "deposit a letter in any post-office in Illinois, however remote or obscure, with no other superscription than these three words 'The Old Ranger,' and it will go straight to him at Belleville." The intimate friendship cemented by common service in the little spy company was of important moment to Cox when his comrade, Reynolds, came into a position of power.

In March, 1813, Thomas Cox was promoted in the militia to commissioned rank, as ensign; a year later, he was made

lieutenant; and, in 1818, he was further advanced to the rank of captain in the territorial militia. Here records fail; but, in a printed letter of Governor Ninian Edwards, written in December, 1820, he is mentioned as "Colonel" Cox, as he is also in a letter written by President James Monroe in January, 1823. Both of these letters are preserved in the "Edwards Papers." A tradition in his family has it that he attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the militia.

The militia of Illinois was not called upon for any great sacrifice of life in the war of 1812, but was frequently assembled in response to Indian "scares," which involved tedious scouts and the building of block houses and stockades in which families were "forted." Family tradition credits Cox with having been dispatch bearer on one or more occasions between Governor Edwards and General William Henry Harrison, commander of the American army on the lakes.

In the year 1815 (exact date not preserved), Lieutenant Cox was married at Ste. Genevieve, Mo., to Roba Bartlett, daughter of Daniel Bartlett, a native of Rhode Island, who had come to Ste. Genevieve in 1809 and purchased a French grant of five hundred acres on the Isle Bois river near that old French settlement, which was of practically the same age as Kaskaskia, and lay directly across the Mississippi from the Illinois capital. An advertisement in the *Western Intelligencer* of Kaskaskia, discloses the fact that in 1816 Thomas Cox kept a tavern on the bank of the river, "where he intends keeping the best viands the country affords," not forgetting to state that he is "well supplied with the best of liquors."* Later in the same year, however, he removed to Jonesboro, about fifty miles south. The date is made certain by the fact that his oldest son, Daniel, was born in Jonesboro in September, 1816. This town was then in Johnson county, which, early in 1818, was divided, the southern portion becoming Union county, of which Jonesboro was made

*Publication No. 8, Illinois Historical Library, p. 185. This item is supplied by the kindness of Frank E. Stevens.

the county seat. Under date of April 8, 1818, Thomas Cox was appointed by Governor Ninian Edwards, a justice of the peace of Union county.

An enabling act authorizing Illinois to form a constitution, preliminary to admission as a state, having passed Congress, a convention was held in July and August, 1818; a constitution was adopted, submitted to Congress, and a resolution was passed by that body, Dec. 3, 1818, which admitted Illinois into the union, the eighth new state. In anticipation of such admission, the people, at the regular fall election of 1818, chose officers for the new state. Shadrach Bond was elected governor and Pierre Menard, lieutenant-governor. And among the legislators chosen to set the machinery of the new state in motion, Union county elected Thomas Cox as senator for two years.

The legislature, which consisted of thirteen senators and twenty-five representatives, convened at Kaskaskia, on October 5, 1818, and Governor Bond was inaugurated on the 6th. The legislature and officers seem to have assumed their functions at once without waiting for the formal admission of the state by Congress. An election of United States senators by the legislature took place December 4, 1818, resulting in the choice of Governor Ninian Edwards and Judge Jesse B. Thomas. The former, having drawn the short term, was re-elected to succeed himself by the same legislature, February 7, 1819. In connection with the latter election, the "Edwards Papers" publishes a letter written by Col. Cox, which, being one of the only two scraps from his pen that have been preserved, we give in full:

KASKASKIA, February 8th, 1809.

SIR:—You are re-elected to the United States Senate for six years, which has completely placed you out of the reach of your enemies. Col. Jones was your opponent. He got 19 votes and you 23. There has been more trickery and intrigue made use of than you have any idea of. I suppose that some of your friends will give you the particulars of what has transpired. If they do not you will hear of it when you come home. I wish that you could see the letter I received from the honorable senator from this county a few minutes before the election came on yesterday. He pro-

tested against me having a seat in the Legislature because I would not vote for Jones, for which I intend to impeach him. Your friend Kitchell, has done his d—dst to keep you out.

I write in great haste, mostly to let you know that you were re-elected again. There is a great many of them that appear to die very hard deaths. I wish I was with you one hour, just to give you a history of matters and things. I write in great haste.

Your friend and humble servant,

THOMAS COX.

The letter well shows the zeal and activity of the redoubtable Colonel as a politician, and throws some light on the "era of good feeling" said to have prevailed in James Monroe's administration.

A legacy of the Constitutional Convention to that first General Assembly of Illinois was the re-location of the seat of government. The convention provided that the legislature should memorialize Congress for a grant of four sections of land at a site to be selected on the Kaskaskia river, east of the third principal meridian. Commissioners appointed for the purpose chose a handsome site for a new city, which they named Vandalia, misled by a learned wag who told them that the Vandals were an extinct race of Indians which once inhabited that territory. It is probably not a mere coincidence that, twenty years later, when Thomas Cox was one of the leaders in a group of legislators of Iowa Territory, who succeeded in defeating the aspirations of Mt. Pleasant for capital honors, an identical scheme should have been adopted, and Iowa City located on unoccupied government land donated by Congress for that purpose. It was, doubtless, a reminiscence, rather, of his experience in the first state legislature of Illinois.

Cox, in his youthful days, had studied surveying, and had put his studies in practice after his settlement in the "Illinois country." Work in that profession also took him into the region west of the Mississippi, particularly into the territory of the lands about New Madrid, sunken in the great earthquakes of 1811. He took advantage, also, of the facilities then afforded, of obtaining government lands on credit,

to become an extensive speculator in that class of real estate. Much of his land holdings were in the "sunken lands" region, but he acquired, also, at different times, tracts in central Illinois, near Springfield.

The choicest plums in federal appointments in the new western states were those in the land offices. As settlement gradually invaded the wilderness, new "land districts" must be formed, and a Register and a Receiver for each must be appointed. Then, as now, the recommendations of senators and representatives were listened to with great respect by the executive; and then, as now, the President often grew restive under the feeling that the real appointing power rested more in those who "advised and consented" than in him from whom the appointment issued. Shortly after the contests in the Illinois legislature which had resulted in the election of Ninian Edwards and Jesse B. Thomas to be United States senators, new land districts were formed in that state, one of which took its name from the little log village which had just been made the county seat of Sangamon county, and became known as the Springfield district. Sangamon county and the Springfield district included all of Illinois north of Madison and Green counties. Col. Cox had been an ardent promoter of the election of Senator Edwards, had also supported Senator Thomas, and then had taken sides with the latter in the contest which he led to obtain a convention to amend the constitution of Illinois so as to permit negro slavery. It was not difficult, therefore, for the two senators to unite upon Cox as the recipient of one of the official positions required for the Springfield land district. The appointment seems to have been agreed upon in December, 1820, but the district was not organized until two years later. The alternative position was pledged by Pres. Monroe, at the solicitation of the Vermont delegation, to Pascal P. Enos, a New Englander, who had been recently a resident of St. Louis, but who had removed to Edwardsville, Ill., in 1821. The letter of Pres. Monroe, previously alluded to, finally de-

cides which office each candidate should receive, and reads as follows:

[Confidential]

January 23, 1823.

DEAR SIR:—On further consideration I think it will be best to withdraw the nomination of Mr. Cox and Mr. Enos, and to change the order for that first proposed by you, by nominating Col. Cox as Register and Mr. Enos as Receiver. Should the nominations be taken up, be so kind as to have them postponed for this purpose, tho' it will be better to say nothing as to the motive.

Very Sincerely Yours,

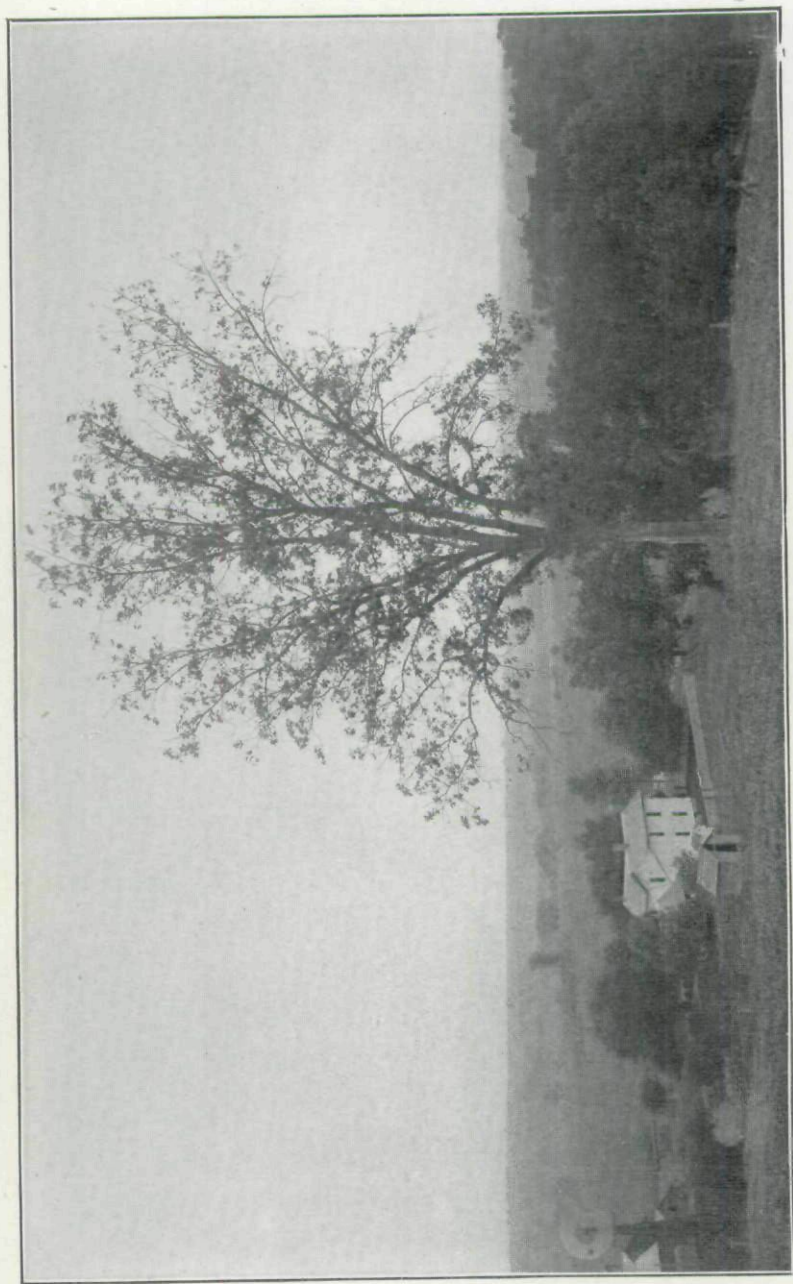
JAMES MONROE.*

The commission of Thomas Cox as Register of the U. S. land office at Springfield was dated January 28, 1823, and he had removed there with his family sometime in 1822. Early in 1822, he, in partnership with Elijah Iles, a Kentuckian, who had engaged in merchandizing in a log hut the previous year, John Taylor, also a Kentuckian, sheriff of the county, and Pascal P. Enos pre-empted four quarter sections adjoining the hamlet of Springfield, and laid them out in town lots. All being ardent admirers of John C. Calhoun, who was then an avowed candidate for the presidency, they named their town site Calhoun. They did not succeed in extinguishing the name, Springfield, but land conveyances in that part of the city, which includes the state house site, still perpetuate the name of the celebrated South Carolina nullifier.

Col. Cox held the office of Register for a full term of four years, and was succeeded January 5, 1827, by Dr. John Todd, a whig Kentuckian, appointed by Pres. John Quincy Adams. Dr. Todd was an uncle of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. About this time, the extensive land speculations in which Cox had engaged for several years, culminated in severe losses, which, aggravated by unwise endorsements for friends, into which his generous nature had led him, swept away almost his entire fortune. He again engaged in hotel keeping, but the next few years seem to have been a period of great depression of spirits.

The Black Hawk war came on in the spring of 1832.

*This letter is given in facsimile in the "Edwards Papers," to exhibit Pres. Monroe's handwriting.



Hickory tree under which Colonel Cox was buried. The farm buildings occupy the site of the Cox double log cabin. The view looks southwest across the Maquoketa river valley.

John Reynolds had become governor of the state in 1830, and he at once called out a small force of volunteers for temporary service. Soon after the fiasco of Stillman's "Run," and other evidences that a more efficient organization was necessary, this entire force was disbanded and a new call made, which resulted in assembling an army of three brigades, containing in all ten regiments and three spy battalions, all mounted. Gov. Reynolds proposed to recognize his old comrade of Judy's scouts in the war of 1812, by appointing him as colonel of one of the new regiments. But Col. Cox, evidently, at the moment, distrusted his own powers. He declined the flattering offer, but secured the responsible commission for James Collins, a young Virginian, then a resident in the adjoining county of Macoupin, who had recently married Eleanor Young, a widowed sister of Cox. That the refusal was not because he wished to avoid the dangers of the field, nor because he had reached the age of exemption from military service, he proved at once by enlisting in a company from the adjoining county of Morgan, commanded by Capt. Allan T. Lindsay. This was another of those "spy" or scout companies, such as he had served with in 1812, and thus afforded him congenial duty, and with really no loss of dignity among those free and independent pioneers. Abraham Lincoln, who had been a captain earlier in the year, was now serving as a private, as was also Samuel Whitesides, who had been a brigadier-general, and many other ex-colonels, majors, and captains were in the ranks.

Lindsay's company, with another from Vandalia, was placed in the spy battalion commanded by Maj. W. L. D. Ewing, who was then a prominent politician, and later served a short term as United States senator. The battalion was attached to the brigade of Gen. James D. Henry, which consisted of four regiments, one of them being that of Col. James Collins. And it became the fortune of war that Henry's brigade bore the most conspicuous part and achieved the most brilliant successes of any portion of Gen. Atkinson's

command, in the arduous campaign into the wilds of Wisconsin (then Michigan) which followed. The battle of Wisconsin Heights was fought and won by Henry's brigade and Col. Henry Dodge's small detachment of Michigan troopers alone. Ewing's scouts led in the attack and received the first fire of the savage foe. Black Hawk was nearly overtaken on the peninsula between Lakes Monona and Mendota, where Madison now stands, and Ewing's battalion swept as skirmishers across those classic hills when they were a trackless wilderness. At the battle of the Bad Axe, Ewing's scouts discovered the main force of the enemy after Atkinson had been decoyed by a stratagem away from the field, and Henry, with Collins and Jones' regiments, drove the savages to the river before Atkinson arrived to clinch the victory.

The Illinois volunteers were discharged in August, 1832.* Soon after his return home, Col. Cox removed from Springfield to the former home of his wife, the Daniel Bartlett farm on the Isle Bois river near Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, then occupied by his brothers-in-law, William and Lemuel Bartlett. In the meantime, the treaty of Gen. Scott and Gov. Reynolds with the Sacs and Foxes had opened up to settlement the Black Hawk Purchase on the west side of the Mississippi. It became the duty of the general government to have the land surveyed into townships and sections as rapidly as possible, that pre-emptors might define their claims. This was done by contract under authority of the U. S. surveyor general, and the contractors received appointment as deputy U. S. surveyors. W. L. D. Ewing was now (Dec., 1835) U. S. senator from Illinois; Gen. Henry Dodge, a Ste. Genevieve man, was governor of Wisconsin Territory (July, 1836), and George W. Jones, another Ste. Genevieve man, was delegate to Congress first from Michigan and then from Wisconsin Territory. Thomas Cox had had experience as a land surveyor, and all of these influential friends knew it. Thus it

*Thomas Cox enlisted June 6, 1832, and was discharged August 16, 1832.—"Roster of Illinois Soldiers in the Black Hawk War", by Adj.-Gen. Elliott, 1882.

came that under date of May 6, 1837, he was appointed by Robert T. Lytle (U. S. surveyor general for the territory northwest of the Ohio), as U. S. deputy surveyor, and given the contract to subdivide into sections, townships 84 and 85 north, ranges 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 east of the fifth principal meridian. The townships thus described are Farmer's Creek, Perry, Jackson, Washington, South Fork, Maquoketa, Fairfield, Van Buren, Iowa and Union, in Jackson county, Iowa.

In anticipation of this appointment and to be near the scene of his labors, Col. Cox, in May, 1837, removed his family to White Oak Springs, in Iowa county, Wisconsin, twelve miles northeast of Galena, Illinois. This place had been, for several years, the home of Cox's brother-in-law, Col. James Collins, who was successfully engaged in lead mining, and of other relatives and friends from Springfield.

Settlements had begun in Jackson county as early as 1834, at Bellevue and a little later at Charleston (now Sabula), also on the Mississippi. A few families came into Van Buren township in 1836, and one or two took claims at the Forks of the Maquoketa the same year. Otherwise, his field of work was wholly unsettled when Cox began work in the spring of 1837. Emigrants arrived very rapidly that year, however, and the genial Colonel made the acquaintance of all of them. Some old pioneers are still living who remember the jolly surveying party with its tent and ox-team and good cheer. The foreman of the outfit was John G. McDonald, a skillful engineer, formerly of Indiana, with whom Cox had worked in Illinois. McDonald had evidence of the regard the Colonel ever had for his friends, in receiving through his influence appointments as brigadier-general of militia, doorkeeper of the territorial house, and commissioner to locate the county seat of Jones county. Gen. McDonald went to California in 1850 and died there after a few months sojourn.

It being the intention of Col. Cox to make a home in the new country which he was preparing for settlement, he took

early occasion to select a claim for himself. He chose a location where a trail, which had been established leading from Dubuque directly south to Davenport, crossed the Maquoketa, over a rocky ford. It was nearly three miles below where the north and south forks of the river united. The trail, which had followed ridges nearly all the way from Dubuque, here descended into a wooded ravine in which were several fine springs. Near these springs, the Colonel's double log cabin was erected, and here he removed his family, consisting of wife, two sons and four daughters, in the spring of 1838. He gave his claim the name of "Richland," evidently hoping that a town might be located there, but Springfield (now Maquoketa) at the forks began to grow, and the Dubuque-Davenport road was deflected to cross the river at Bridgeport, a mile and a half farther up.

On July 3, 1838, Iowa became a territory of the union, having been detached from Wisconsin Territory by act of Congress, passed June 12, 1838. The first division of the territory into districts for the election of members of the legislature, was made by the governor; and, in that division, Jackson county was placed in a representative district that was an empire in extent. It consisted of Jackson, Dubuque, Delaware, Clayton and Fayette counties, but Fayette extended to the line of British America, and included all of northern Iowa, nearly all of Minnesota and part of the Dakotas. It was entitled to four members of the territorial house of representatives and chose Thomas Cox, Col. Andrew Bankson (a comrade of Cox in the war of 1812 and the Black Hawk war, from southern Illinois), Hardin Nowlin, and Chauncy Swan, the latter three from Dubuque county.

We have no information as to what other candidates appeared at that election, or record of the number of votes cast. The prior legislative experience of Col. Cox and his thorough acquaintance in the county pointed to him naturally as the proper representative for Jackson, and a life long training had made him a past master in the arts of a politician.

The legislature met November 12, 1838, at Burlington, which had been the capital of Wisconsin Territory before the division. The House consisted of twenty-six members, of whom a large majority were democrats; but party lines were almost utterly ignored. A division soon appeared, however, that affected votes on many questions, being that between the south and north sections of the Territory. The southern counties, Lee, Van Buren, Henry and Des Moines, were the more thickly settled and supplied fifteen members of the House. Col. Andrew Bankson, of Dubuque, was appointed temporary Speaker, but the honors for the permanent position went, as their numbers entitled them, to the south. William H. Wallace, of Henry, although a whig, was elected, having received eleven votes, John Frierson (Muscatine), four, Thomas Cox, two, Andrew Bankson, one, James W. Grimes, one, and one blank. Six members were evidently absent.

Col. Cox, from the first day of the session, took a leading part in the routine work of the House. He was made chairman of the committee on Internal Improvements and member of the committees on Roads and Highways and Militia, and served frequently as chairman of the committee of the whole. He was not a lawyer and had little share in framing acts pertaining to legal technicalities and the practice of courts, but was keenly alert on the practical matters indicated by his committee assignments. For instance, Nov. 22:

Mr. Summers offered the following: *Resolved*, That the committee on Internal Improvements be instructed to inquire into the expediency of memorializing Congress for an appropriation for the improvement of the navigation of the Wabesipinicon river. Mr. Cox moved to amend by adding "and also the Big Maquoketa". Mr. Hastings moved to amend the amendment by adding "and the Cedar fork of the Iowa." The amendments were agreed to and the resolution passed.*

The records show that Cox was present on every day of the session and his name appears upon every roll call but one, although they were much more frequent than is now the practice in legislative bodies. In the remarkable contest

*Territorial House Journal.

which arose with Gov. Lucas, during the session, over his use of the veto power, Cox was an ardent partisan of the rights of the legislature as against the executive. One notable item in the contest was the resolution which he introduced on Dec. 3:

Resolved, That the postmaster at Davenport, Scott county, be and he is hereby authorized to have the mail from Davenport to Dubuque conveyed in two horse post coaches twice a week during the present session of the Legislative Assembly, and that the Postmaster General of the United States be memorialized by the Legislative Assembly to allow and pay the extra expense that may be incurred under this resolution.

This the Governor refused to approve, under his contention that the organic act gave him the right of absolute veto of all legislation. The veto, on January 4, 1839, of this and another resolution gave rise to the adoption of a motion by Mr. Grimes that a committee on vetoes be appointed. Grimes was made chairman of the committee and his report on January 7th, contains the following:

. . . . The first vetoed resolution submitted to this committee was in the following words [quotes]: This resolution was unanimously adopted by the Legislative Assembly, upon the suggestion of northern members that they were unable to receive petitions or hear from their constituents, or their constituents to hear from them. It was a matter of notoriety, which must have been known as well by the Executive of this Territory as by the members of this Assembly, that the mail from Davenport to Dubuque was irregular—that not a fourth part of the mail could be carried in the bags at one time—that, in requesting the Postmaster General to defray the additional expense, this Legislature had the example of the Wisconsin Assembly—and that that request was considered reasonable and complied with very readily by the Department at Washington. The resolution was nothing more nor less than a call upon the Postmaster General to establish, for the present winter at least, a sufficient mail route between Davenport and DuBuque. If power was assumed in that resolution, which could only be exercised by the Congress of the United States, the “veto” was perfectly proper (if it could be exercised at all); but your committee are not of the opinion.

The report, which was signed by James W. Grimes, Chauncey Swan (Dubuque), Laurel Summers (Comanche), and Hawkins Taylor (Keokuk), condemned the Governor very severely and claimed that he had no right of veto. It was adopted by 16 to 6, Cox voting in the affirmative. On January 15, Andrew Bankson offered the resolution declaring

that "Robert Lucas is unfit to be the ruler of a free people," and calling upon the President to remove him from office, which was adopted 12 to 10, Cox in the affirmative. On the last day of the session, a resolution was adopted, on motion of Cox "that Messrs. Inghram (Council) and Temple be requested to forward to the President of the United States the joint memorial that he remove Gov. Lucas from the office of Governor of the Territory."

One of the most important matters that came before this first session of the territorial legislature was the selection of a permanent seat of government. The delegations from the southern counties seem to have agreed early in the session to push the claims of Mt. Pleasant, in Henry county, with the proviso that Burlington should remain the temporary capital for three years. A bill to that effect came up in the House for consideration in committee of the whole, on December 31. The northern members generally, including those from Muscatine, determined to defeat Mt. Pleasant, if possible, but were unable to bring forward an alternative location that would command the requisite support. Twenty-eight motions were made in committee to strike out Mt. Pleasant and insert as many different places, but all were voted down and the bill was reported back to the House for concurrence. But the motion to concur only brought on a renewal of the contest, which began in an attack on Burlington as the temporary capital.

Then Col. Cox came forward with a new proposition, evidently evolved, as we have said, from his experience in the first state legislature of Illinois. He moved to amend the second section as follows:

Strike out Mt. Pleasant and insert Johnson, Linn, and Cedar counties and that commissioners be appointed to locate the seat of government at the most eligible place in either of those counties.

The motion failed by 11 to 14, but it introduced a germ of thought that grew and grew. Then Nowlin moved to make Burlington the permanent capital. Lost 12 to 13, the Bur-

lington delegation themselves defeating it. But Hawkins Taylor of Lee moved to reconsider, James Hall of Van Buren joined him, and the Burlington motion was carried by 14 to 11. Then the bill was referred to a select committee of one from each electoral district and that ended the contest for the day. On the next day, January 1, the select committee reported back the bill with amendments which the journal does not disclose, but which evidently contained the original scheme of Mt. Pleasant for permanent and Burlington for temporary capital. The bill passed by 13 to 11, Cox in the negative, and then Nowlin moved to amend the title to read, "A bill to establish two seats of government and to squander the appropriation for erecting public buildings." Six voted for the amended title, including Cox. This transferred the fight to the Council, whence the bill came back on January 3, with the Johnson county amendment, and the House concurred by 13 to 12, the minority of January 1, being now the majority, with the aid of Geo. H. Beeler, of Des Moines and Laurel Summers, of Clinton. The new town in Johnson county was not named in this bill, but on January 15 a supplementary bill dictated by the Governor was passed, during the consideration of which "Mr. Cox moved to insert in the first section thereof the words, 'to be called Iowa City' which was carried." Thus Col. Thomas Cox is entitled to the credit of having originated the plan by which Iowa City became the capital of Iowa and of having given the city its name.*

*Hon. T. S. Parvin, to whom Iowa is greatly indebted for preserving its earliest history, made a curious mistake in some references to the history of this capital contest. In an address before the Iowa Lawmakers' Association, in 1892, he said: "His (Cox's) vote was the turning point in the location of the capital at Iowa City and the territory and state became indebted to him by whose vote the location was determined." In an address before the same body in 1900, Mr. Parvin told a circumstantial story, without mentioning the name, which intimated that the vote of Cox was obtained by influences not wholly creditable, in which a celebration of "Jackson Day," January 8th, bore a part. In a letter written by Parvin to Rev. Wm. Salter in 1900, which the writer has been permitted to copy, the incident is told in more of detail and it there appears that the venerable narrator had no personal knowledge of the matter, it having been told him by Hon. S. Clinton Hastings. Now the evidence of the House journal contradicts the whole story. From the first of the contest to the last, Cox's vote was never in doubt and he appeared definitely as a leader of the forces opposed to Mt.

In recognition of the efforts of Col. Cox, and because his profession supplied necessary qualifications, he was chosen, with Gen. John Frierson of Muscatine, as surveyor of the town site of the new capital. John G. McDonald, his able assistant in the Jackson county surveys, also helped in this important work, which was prosecuted during the summer of 1839.

A new apportionment was made before the election of 1839 by which Jackson county became a representative district by itself, in which Col. Cox was re-elected. Through rank treachery, the democratic nomination was obtained by W. W. Brown, afterwards identified as a leader of the Bellevue outlaws, but Cox ran as an independent candidate and defeated him. The assembly convened at Burlington November 4. In the election for Speaker, Edward Johnston of Keokuk was chosen with 17 votes, James Churchman received six votes, Alfred Rich, one and Thomas Cox, one. Cox received the chairmanship of the committee on Internal Improvements and was a member of those on Territorial Affairs, Militia, and Rules. The journal shows that he exercised the same vigilance and knowledge of parliamentary practice that characterized him in the preceding session.

On November 26, he joined with a majority of the committee on Territorial Affairs in reporting a resolution "that it is inexpedient to take any preparatory steps for admission into the Union as a State at the present session of the Legislative Assembly." The resolution was adopted by 21 to 4. That he still felt hostile toward Gov. Lucas is indicated by his votes adverse to sustaining the Governor's three vetoes, although two of them were ratified by large majorities of

Pleasant. The wavering votes can plainly be placed from the journal records and Cox was not one of them. Then the last ballots were taken and the contest definitely closed on the 3d day of January. "Jackson Day" could have had no share in any phase of it. Hastings' tale, repeated by Parvin sixty-two years after the event, may have had a substantial basis regarding some other session of the Territorial Legislature, but was certainly not an incident of the capital locating contest. Hon. Hawkins Taylor, a member of that first Territorial House from Keokuk, in a letter to the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers' reunion of 1890 makes this positive assertion: "During the whole session I never saw a member under the influence of liquor."

the House. A resolution adopted on the last day of the session, January 17, 1840, to endorse a political action of Pres. Van Buren, shows the political affiliation of the House to have been, democrats 15, whigs 8. Cox voted with the democrats.

Shortly after his return home from this session, Col. Cox was called upon to take a stand for the defense of law and order in his community. He accepted with a vigor and determination that reflected great credit upon him, and resulted in freeing the county from a dangerous menace to its peace and good name. There was a large band of counterfeitters, horse thieves, and murderers infesting the frontier, which became generally known as the "Banditti of the Prairie." They had a sort of center at White Pigeon in the wilds of Michigan, with branch organizations in northern Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Missouri. Early in 1837, a party of emigrants from Michigan, came to Bellevue, the county seat of Jackson county. The leader of the party was W. W. Brown, a man of fine personal appearance, engaging manners and considerable culture. He engaged in business in Bellevue, keeping a hotel, and cutting wood to supply steamboats, and he gained property rapidly for those days. It soon became evident that the men he kept around him as boarders and employes were very undesirable citizens. Counterfeit money appeared in circulation; stolen horses and stolen cattle were traced to Brown's boarders, and Brown's own skirts were seldom clear of suspicion. Arrests were made, but alibis were always proven by weight of numbers, the witnesses coming from Brown's hotel. The sheriff of Jackson county was William A. Warren, a Kentuckian who had removed to Bellevue from the Galena lead mines in 1836, a young man of bravery and intelligence who bore a prominent part in the subsequent history of the county. By the spring of 1840, the criminal character of Brown's gang had become so apparent that the decent people of the village denied them social recognition. In revenge for this, James Thompson, one of

the most notorious of the outlaws, indulged in such outrageous conduct towards the family of James Mitchell as cost him his life in an altercation with Mitchell on the street. The homicide was taken into custody by the sheriff, but repeated attempts at lynching and other defiant acts by the criminal ruffians induced Sheriff Warren to call the leading men of the county into consultation. Col. Cox, by common consent, assumed leadership of the law and order men, and their advice was that warrants should be issued and that a posse be assembled on the first day of April, to assist the sheriff in taking the entire gang into custody. An information was sworn out before a country justice of the peace, charging W. W. Brown, William Fox, Aaron Long, and twenty others "as confederated together for the purpose of thieving, passing counterfeit money, robbing, and other depredations to the great injury of the community, in which they lived, and to the detriment of the public in general." William Fox, thus mentioned, was one of those afterward implicated in the robbery and murder of Col. George Davenport on Rock Island.

Cox and Warren rode through the townships to ask prominent men to assemble at Bellevue at 10 o'clock April 1, 1840, hoping that the moral weight and influence of the gathering would induce Brown and his coadjutors to surrender peacefully to the law. Cox arrived first with about forty devoted adherents, among whom was the distinguished hero of the Black Hawk war, Col. James Collins, of White Oak Springs, who, with his wife, was visiting that lady's mother and brothers, the Coxes.* They found that a red flag had been

*This Gen. James Collins was a once prominent pioneer whose memory was as completely lost as that of Col. Cox. No Jackson county pioneer could tell me anything about him except a vague recollection that he was a relative visiting at the home of John Cox. Frank E. Stevens, author of the "History of the Black Hawk War," wrote me that he had written more letters of inquiry about Col. Collins with less result, than about the many other hundreds whose names appear in his book. But tracing the Cox family led to facts about Collins also. He was elected to the Wisconsin territorial House for the session which met at Burlington in 1838. He then served in the Wisconsin territorial Council at Madison for six sessions, being elected its president in 1841. He ran for territorial delegate in 1845 as a whig, but was beaten by Morgan

raised in front of Brown's hotel and the gang were drunk and defiant. The sheriff, on arrival, obtained a parley with Brown, read his warrant, and demanded surrender to the law. This was refused, but Warren was detained by the drunken crowd as a prisoner, until Col. Cox formed his men for a rescue, when he was released. Further parley ensued until half past two o'clock, when Cox formed forty men for an attack with forty more in reserve, and ordered a charge upon the hotel with instructions not to fire unless they were fired upon, expecting that their determined attitude would force a surrender. They gained the front of the house with a rush. Cox and Warren called upon Brown to surrender. It is supposed that he intended to do so, but that his gun went off accidentally. The ball passed through Col. Cox's coat and the discharge was a signal for a general fusilade from both sides. Brown was shot in his tracks at the first fire, but his men mostly made their escape to the second story, from which and from an adjoining building, they continued the fight which resulted in the killing of four of the attacking force, Henderson Palmer, a prominent Bellevue citizen, Andrew Farley, a farmer from Deep Creek, John Brink and J. Maxwell, also of Bellevue. William Vaughn was severely wounded and afterwards died. Col. Collins was shot in the hand, and William Vance in the thigh. John G. McDonald, the surveyor, seeing a gun aimed at Col. Cox from the adjoining building, leaped to protect him and received the ball in his hip; he was also shot in the left wrist.

Of the outlaws, there were killed W. W. Brown, Aaron Day, and "old man" Burtis. Tom Welch, alias Buckskin Tom, was badly wounded and several others slightly. Prep-

L. Martin, democrat, of Green Bay. In 1847, having raised a company at Galena for the Mexican war, he was elected colonel of the 6th Illinois Infantry, and served at Vera Cruz and Tampico. He was presented with a fine sword by the Illinois Legislature, after his return. In 1849, he went to California and settled in Nevada county, from which he was elected to the California Assembly for two terms. He was commissioned brigadier general of the 4th brigade California Militia in 1860 and died in 1864, while treasurer of Nevada county. He was a native of Virginia, born in 1802, and settled in Macoupin county, Illinois, in 1832.

arations to set fire to the building finally resulted in the capture of thirteen who were endeavoring to escape by jumping from a shed at the rear of the building, but seven succeeded in getting away. The first impulse of the captors was to hang the bandits at once, indeed, ropes were procured and placed about the necks of some of them, but the earnest pleas of Cox and others for delay prevailed, and they were placed under guard for the night. A meeting of citizens was held that evening and adjourned to meet the next day, at which time the fate of the prisoners was discussed. The fact that the county contained no jail and that danger of rescue by accomplices was imminent induced many to advocate an improvised trial and short shrift. The alternative was proposed that they be whipped and forbidden to enter the county again. A ballot was taken with beans, white for hanging and dark for whipping, with the result that the black beans won by only three majority. The whipping was thoroughly done, and, so far as known, none of the bandits ever returned to the county.

In July, 1840, the second territorial assembly held an extra session. The organization of the regular session was not recognized as holding over, but a new election of legislative officers was held. Hon. Edward Johnston of Keokuk was again elected Speaker, but Thomas Cox was appointed Speaker pro tem. and appeared strongly in evidence as a candidate for the permanent honor. Three ballots were taken, in which he received three, four and three votes respectively. He appeared in his seat on the first three days of that session only, being absent the remainder of the term because of sickness.

For the third assembly, he was again elected to the House. The session began at Burlington Nov. 3, 1840. On assembling, only one nomination for Speaker was made.

Mr. (Laurel) Summers (from Clinton county) nominated Thomas Cox. The members then proceeded to ballot, after which, upon counting the same, it was found that Mr. Cox had received a majority of the whole num-

ber of votes given, and was therefore declared duly elected Speaker, and was conducted to the chair by Messrs. Lash (of Henry) and Lewis (of Van Buren), when he returned thanks in a short and pertinent address.*

In no other session of either body of the territorial assemblies was the presiding officer elected without a contest, or without the journal showing the record of the vote.

Col. Cox being Speaker, no bills were introduced nor motions made by him during this session. The journal shows that he voted upon every roll call up to and including January 4, 1841. There is little in the record to show the motives or reasons for his votes. Few questions arose that bear indications of having been decided by party feeling except frequently recurring contests on public printing. Cox generally seems to have voted on the "economy" side of propositions to expend money. He voted in one case against authorizing a lottery. January 5, he was absent at the morning session, absent again on the 6th and 7th, appeared at one session on the 8th, but never again during the session. Laurel Summers served during this period as Speaker pro tem. In his farewell address at the close of the session, January 15, he says that "on account of the indisposition of the Speaker it has become my duty to adjourn the House."

His faithful constituents again elected the Colonel to a seat in the House at the regular election in August, 1841, but we find upon the county records that, on November 2, he presented to the Board of County Commissioners his resignation. A special election was held November 29, at which James K. Moss of Bellevue was elected to fill the vacancy. We have been unable to find any old settler who remembers this resignation or its cause, but it was doubtless caused by the ill health which had interfered with his usefulness the two previous sessions.

When the election of 1842 came on, he appeared as a candidate for the Council, to represent the district consisting of Jackson, Dubuque, Clayton, Delaware and Fayette coun-

*Journal of the House, Third Legislative Assembly.

ties "and the territories adjacent," which extended to the British possessions on the north and the Missouri river on the west, but which held no voters north of the Turkey nor west of the Wapsipinicon, except the small St. Peters precinct at Fort Snelling. The regular democratic nominations were secured by Gen. Francis Gehon and Hardin Nowlin, but Thomas Cox and Stephen Hempstead (afterwards second governor of the State) came out as independent candidates.

At the election the voters of Jackson county all voted 'single shot' for Cox and he was elected, and there was a tie between Hempstead and Nowlin, and Gehon was behind. At a subsequent special election, Gehon, by the help of Jackson county was elected and both Hempstead and Nowlin were left. It was said at the time that the final outcome of the election was an agreement between Gehon and Col. Cox.*

Hon. F. M. Knoll, in a biographical sketch of Gov. Hempstead,† adds an interesting detail of this election:

In 1840, after the expiration of his first term in the legislative Council he was a candidate for re-election, General Gehon, afterwards U. S. Marshall being his opponent. At the day of the election, owing to his deep sense of honor and his proverbial courtesy, he could not bring himself to vote for himself, but cast his vote for his opponent, thus electing General Gehon by one vote.

The Council consisted of thirteen members. They convened with the fifth general assembly at Iowa City, on December 5, 1842. Cox found among them five with whom he had previously served as a member of the House. It seems difficult to determine just how this body was divided in political affiliations. Some had been elected on independent tickets, but newspapers of the day divided them positively into—six democrats and six whigs, leaving one man, Joseph B. Teas, of Jefferson county, who was claimed by both parties.‡ For President of the Council, Hon. Francis Springer

*A letter from Hon. P. W. Crawford, State senator from Dubuque, June 25, 1905.

†Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers' Association, 1898, pp. 139-140. Mr. Knoll makes a mistake in the date. The Councilmen elected in 1840 from the Dubuque district were Hon. M. Bainbridge of Dubuque and Hon. Joseph S. Kirkpatrick of Bellevue, Jackson county.

‡Gleaned from Iowa City newspapers of the day by Mr. John Parish, under direction of Prof. B. F. Shambaugh.

of Louisa was presented by the whigs and Shepherd Leffler, a democrat, nominated Joseph B. Teas. On the first day, three ballots were taken, Teas receiving six votes, Springer four and three were blank. The next day Springer was dropped out, and the result of the fourth ballot was John D. Elbert, a whig, of Van Buren, 5 votes, Teas 5, Thomas Cox 1, blank 2. The fifth ballot stood: Elbert 6, Teas 4, blank 3. "Then Mr. Gehon withdrew the name of Joseph B. Teas and nominated Thomas Cox for president." Result of the sixth ballot: Elbert 7, Cox 4, W. H. Wallace 1, blank 1, and Elbert was elected.

In the assignment of committees, Cox was appointed chairman of Military Affairs, and member of Roads, Territorial Affairs, and Agriculture. He appears to have been present on every day of the session and took an active part in all routine work, served on several select committees, being chairman of two, and introduced several bills. Among the latter were "a bill to establish new counties and define their boundaries in the late cession from the Sac and Fox Indians," and "a bill to organize, discipline, and govern the militia." The assembly adjourned February 17, 1843.

The sixth territorial assembly began its sessions at Iowa City, December 4, 1843. The Council serving the second year of the term for which they were elected presented no change in personnel. The uncertain character of their political affiliations again showed itself in the election of president. Francis Springer was appointed president pro tem. without opposition. Gen. Gehon did not appear in attendance at the beginning of the session, which probably induced Cox to move that the election of president be postponed until the fourth day of the session, which motion was carried. The balloting, however, resulted in a veritable deadlock. The same candidates appeared as at the previous session, Springer and Teas. Thirteen ballots in all were taken on December 7 and 8, and then a motion was carried to postpone the election to the second Tuesday in January. Teas' highest

vote was six on the first ballot. Springer received six on two ballots, and had five loyal supporters on all. Cox's name appeared with one vote on the third ballot, one on the fifth, two on the sixth and three on the seventh. Then, on the eleventh, Teas was dropped and the next three ballots stood Springer 5, Cox 5, blank 2. Balloting was resumed on January 9 and seven ballots were taken on that day. Cox received six votes on three of them, but Springer dropped off, dividing his support with John P. Cook, a whig (of Cedar, Jones, and Linn district). January 10, three ballots were taken, Springer rose again to six and Cox dropped to four. January 11, three ballots were again taken; Springer withdrew and Teas changed front by taking his place against Cox, the twenty-sixth ballot being Teas 5, Cox 5, James Jenkins, democrat (Van Buren) 1, blank 2. Then Teas withdrew, Wm. H. Wallace of Henry took his place as the whig candidate, and Thomas Cox was elected on the thirty-first ballot by Cox 7, Wallace 4, blank 2.*

The journal shows Cox to have been present at every session of the Council during the term, and that he took a prominent part in all legislation while serving on the floor. An important measure in this assembly, was the adoption of a memorial to Congress, asking for statehood and defining the boundary desired. During its consideration Cox moved an amendment which demanded for the north boundary, the forty-fifth parallel of latitude, extending west to the line of the Sioux river, which amendment was adopted. This recommendation, however, failed to receive the sanction of the convention which met in October, 1844. They adopted the St. Peters (Minnesota) and Blue Earth (Mankato) rivers as the northern boundary, but Congress further delimited the area of the proposed state and the people, therefore, rejected the constitution. During the discussion in the convention of

*The Iowa Official Registers and other authorities say that Cox was elected president of the sixth territorial Council on the forty-first ballot. This is a mistake. It was on the thirty-first.

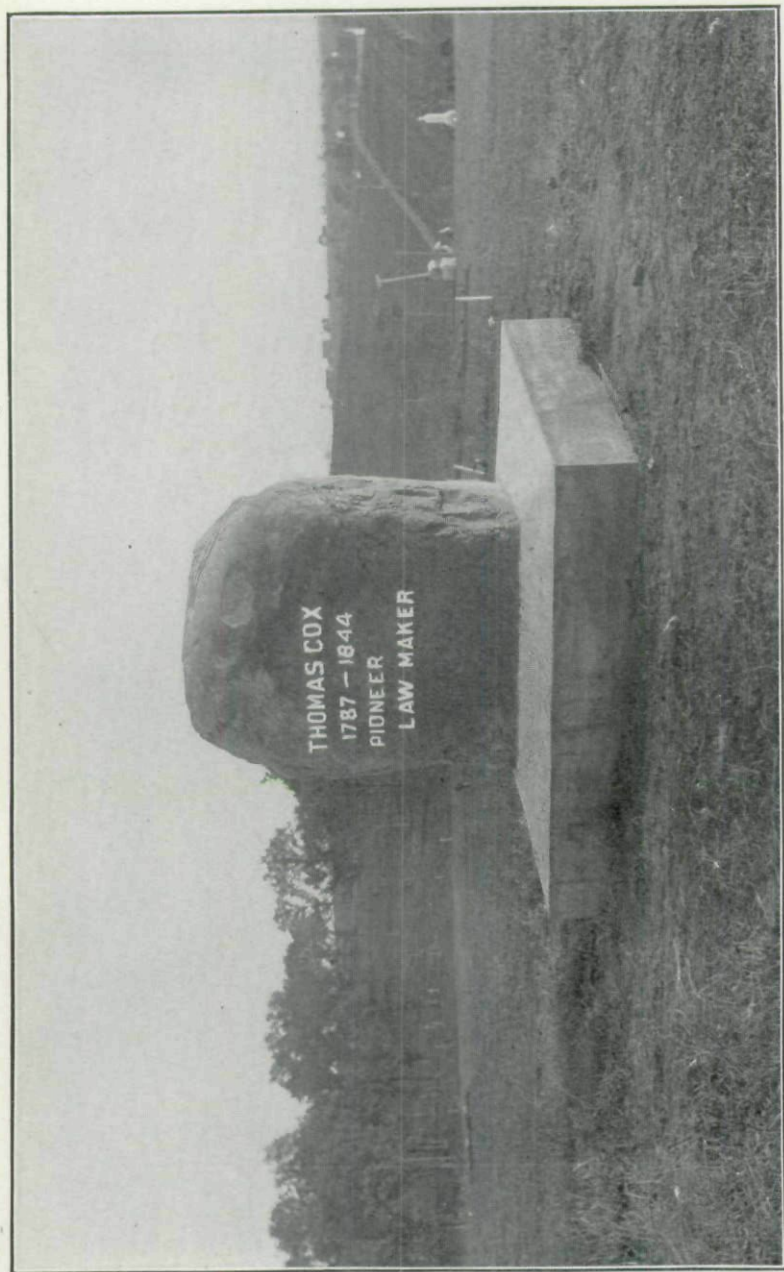
the boundary question, Langworthy of Dubuque advocated the Cox proposition of making the parallel of 45° the north boundary, but did not secure votes enough to carry it. This line passes through the present site of Minneapolis.

A contest arose in the Council, beginning January 10, over how many delegates should constitute the constitutional convention, in which Cox fought strenuously for a favorable representation of the northern part of the Territory. He succeeded at one stage in getting an appointment of ten delegates for his Council district, but a final amendment on January 20, passed by a vote of 7 to 6, allowed only seven, and then he, with four others, voted against the bill.

The sixth assembly adjourned February 14, 1844. The usual vote of thanks to President Cox was moved by Mr. Elbert, and was very cordially expressed. The President's farewell address exhibited much feeling, and seemed to foreshadow his approaching end.

An extra session of this assembly was held in June, 1844, but its journal was never printed, and no record of its proceedings is known to exist. Diligent search for its journal in manuscript has been made by Curator Aldrich and other State officers, but so far without success. Whether the organization of the regular session was recognized at the special session, and Col. Cox thus retained his seat as president, or whether a new election was held as in the special session of 1840, we have no means of knowing; indeed, we have no definite information as to whether he was present at all. The story of the extra session of the sixth territorial assembly of Iowa in 1844 may never be told.

The end of his earthly career came to our sturdy old pioneer soldier and legislator, on the 9th day of November, 1844. He died at his "Richland" farm, of an attack of pneumonia, complicated with liver congestion. The officiating clergyman at his funeral, was a young Congregationalist who had come to the Territory during the previous year with the Amherst college "Iowa Band," and was then located at the little



Monument in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Maquoketa, Iowa, unveiled July 4, 1905. The boulder of gneissoid granite is of the "Kansan drift" age, and was found on Section 10, Township 84, Range 3, east of 5th P. M., about one mile north of the Cox farm.

hamlet of Springfield near by, at the "forks of the Maquoketa." His name was William Salter, and he is still well known to Iowans as an author and historian, and as holding the unique record of more than sixty years' service for his Divine Master in one pulpit, in the city of Burlington.

Nearly sixty-one years after that funeral, Rev. Dr. Salter stood in Mt. Hope cemetery in the city of Maquoketa, and assisted in the ceremony of unveiling a monument to Thomas Cox. The unhewn granite boulder which marks the new resting place of Jackson county's first lawmaker is thoroughly typical of his rugged nature and pioneer history. A remnant of an ancient moraine which marked the boundary of that geologic puzzle, the "driftless area", it is, in the language of Hon. John Wilson, Jackson county lawmaker of 1866—

A monolith carried by Nature's icy river thousands of years ago from distant mountain ranges and laid down on a spot where it could be raised as a characteristic monument to one of Jackson county's pioneer noblemen. It seems unnecessary for the artistic hand of the sculptor to put many finishing touches to the stone. The rubbing, grinding, dressing, sawing, planing, was, many years ago, slowly and patiently executed in Mother Nature's great geological workshop. It had been left where it was now found so artistically prepared by the icy hand of one of the earliest glaciers that slowly slid over the surface of our now far-famed state.

MAQUOKETA, IOWA, November, 1905.

WE CAN afford to be divided on questions of mere partisanship, for comparatively the differences of tariff and the currency are of no consequence. After all, the real question is that of decency in the life of the home and honesty in public life. It makes little difference in the long run whether a democrat or a republican is president, but it makes every difference to have all of our public officials honest and clean. The candidate is the candidate of his party, but the president, if he is worth his salt, is president of the people.—*Theodore Roosevelt, at Little Rock, Ark., October, 1905.*

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